



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Columbus AFB MS



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

### **Newest ship, expansion touted at Ingalls**

By **NICHOLAS COLE**

**THE SUN HERALD**

**PASCAGOULA** - U.S. Sen. Trent Lott joined Northrop Grumman Ship Systems employees Saturday for the keel laying of the U.S. Navy's newest multipurpose assault ship, Makin Island (LHD) 8.

"This ship is about peace and the men and women who serve and help preserve freedom," Lott said.

"Peace is what this war going on today is about.

... This ship is about the men and women who will show the flag and let the world know that we're ready and willing to fight for our freedom."

Lott was joined by Gen. Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, and his wife, Silke, ship's sponsor for LHD 8, as authenticators of the keel. Keel laying is a Navy tradition in which the authenticators' initials are welded into the keel.

The vessel, expected to be completed in 2007, honors a World War II raid executed by Marine Corps Companies A and B, Second Raider Battalion, on Japanese-held Makin Island, in the Gilbert Islands, on Aug. 17-18, 1942. Makin Island (LHD) 8 is the eighth ship in the Wasp (LHD 1) class of U.S. Navy large-deck multipurpose amphibious assault ships.

Following the keel laying, Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck and Northrop employees broke ground on a \$35 million West Bank Expansion Project. The project is the first phase of a \$224 million expansion and modernization planned for the Pascagoula facility.

The expansion will create more than 400,000 square feet of new ship construction area to support the sector's DD(X) Destroyer Program for the U.S. Navy, and its U.S. Coast Guard Deepwater Cutter Program. The project is expected to be completed in December, in time for the first Coast Guard cutter keel laying ceremony.

Dr. Philip Dur, president of Northrop Grumman Ship Systems, said the expansion would create more than 150 jobs and bring in more than \$12 million in taxes for the state.

"This is an opportunity for us to provide a safe, more productive environment for our workplace and will increase the quality of work," Dur said.

*The Sun Herald*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

### EDITORIAL

## EVOLVING STORY

### It's too soon to jump to conclusions about Sheppard assaults

**D**espite all the ruckus stirred up by a *Denver Post* article concerning rapes at Sheppard Air Force Base, the full story has yet to be told.

The *Post* article concluded that Sheppard had an unusually high number of rapes as compared to other military installations and that the base and our community had created a climate of fear that kept assaulted women from coming forward.

Since the story ran there, it has been parsed here by both those quoted in the *Post* story and others who were not quoted.

Some of those quoted now deny they said what they were alleged to have said or accuse the *Post* reporters of taking their quotes out of context. We will probably never know the truth about those denials because sources caught saying something unpopular typically dissimilate when their views are made public.

The reaction from our senators and congressman without having full details or any details at all other than those appearing in the *Post* could only be interpreted as naïve at best and political at worst.

Why would they want a complete investigation based on a single story quoting sources who now deny they said what they said and based on some flimsy evidence? The story, upon thorough examination, had holes that suggest the *Post* had an agenda and wrote the article to fit preconceived notions. The *Post* is writing a series of stories on sexual assaults on military installations. It's fairly clear they are after a Pulitzer Prize. In the quest for that, they need to have stories that are as inflammatory as possible, stories that dance at the edge of being factual.

Everyone wants to know what in the *Post* story was accurate and what wasn't. A complete story would have looked at something beyond anecdotal evidence to convict the base and its personnel. The numbers presented there provide only a part of that evidence. The complete context suggests that the numbers may have little meaning whatsoever.

Before leaping to conclusions based on a single report, let's keep calm and wait for the rest of the story.

*Times Record News*  
PAGE: Faxed  
DATE: 18-Feb-04



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

### Sorry, George, that one won't fly

Feb. 17, 2004 12:00 AM

At the January meeting of the Pinal County Planning and Zoning Commission, developer George Johnson said, "If the military can stop us, that's a taking." As in taking away property rights for which he should be reimbursed.

Whoa!

Let's clarify a thing or two.

La Osa Ranch has general rural zoning. Johnson does not have a *right* to rezoning. That's why the whole procedure is called a zoning "request," not a zoning "guarantee."

Johnson has the right to reasonable, profitable use of land, as he can now do as a rancher.

Of course, he probably didn't buy the land for ranching but for speculation. But the very nature of speculation is taking a risk that a project won't go through.

*The Arizona Republic*  
**PAGE: Internet**  
**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

### Repairs diverting jet flights

*Luke AFB F-16s heading north*

**David Madrid**

The Arizona Republic

Feb. 14, 2004 12:00 AM

Luke Air Force Base has closed a runway, causing significantly more flights to take off toward the more populated north.

It shouldn't last more than five more months, but base officials are asking people who live north of the base to be patient until they can divert the bulk of the flights to the south again.

The base is hoping that noise complaints from Sun City, Surprise and Peoria don't increase.

"We are doing everything we can to make sure we operate safely on the field and that we operate safely for the public," said Luke Vice Commander Col. Pete Costello.

Luke's east runway was shut down Jan. 7 so that rubber that has built up on the runway could be scraped off, and so the 75-foot-wide asphalt shoulders on both sides of the 150-foot-wide runway could be torn up and repaved. While the shoulders are being rebuilt, any repairs needed on the runway itself will be completed.

Costello said it is important that the runway shoulders are in good shape to lessen the odds of rocks or debris ending up on the runway where the F-16 jets could suck them up and damage their engines.

The base began sending significantly more flights to the north on Jan. 21. Since then, 1,273 sorties have taken off to the north, 122 to the south. Luke says it will not fly any F-16s carrying live arms to the north. Those flights, which are about 4 percent of the total sorties flown, will take off to the south.

Luke, which trains F-16 pilots and crew chiefs, has two runways about 10,000 feet long.

Usually one runway is used for takeoffs and the other for landings depending on the direction and strength of the wind. The F-16s are now taking off and landing on the western runway.

*The Arizona Republic*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Columbus AFB MS



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

### Panel backs closing VA hospital

#### STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

**GULFPORT** - South Mississippians will learn in about a month whether patients and staff of the Veterans Affairs hospital in Gulfport will be moved to the VA in Biloxi, where a new hospital would be built.

A Veterans Affairs advisory panel did not spare the VA hospital in Gulfport, which it recommended closing along with hospitals in Pennsylvania and Ohio, while reducing most operations at a Texas facility.

The University of Southern Mississippi has expressed an interest in using the building as a teaching hospital for doctors or nurses. The VA, if it closes the hospital, could lease the facility to USM. The university, however, has been told to wait for guidance from the state College Board.

U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor has opposed closing the VA hospital but might not be able to sway the commission.

"(Taylor) wanted every opportunity for proper utilization of that facility with the main focus to continue providing care to the veteran population," said Taylor's aide, Steve Peranich.

The report suggested leasing the property, perhaps to USM.

"We see this as sort of a silver lining," Peranich said.

VA Secretary Anthony Principi, who received the report Thursday afternoon, will take about a month to review the report and decide whether to approve, reject or change some of the recommendations. The recommendations are not final, but the plan to move patients from the Gulfport hospital have been consistent.

The Gulfport VA has 430 employees and 200 hospital beds for psychiatric and dementia cases. The hospital handles 6,500 outpatient mental health visits yearly. Three medical teams provide primary care for 3,600 patients yearly. A laundry at the Gulfport VA would remain open, even if medical resources move to Biloxi.

Principi will withhold comment on the recommendations for a month until he makes his decision, said Cynthia Church, assistant secretary for public and intergovernmental affairs.

The panel rejected the VA's proposal to close hospitals in Canandaigua, N.Y., Lexington, Ky., and Livermore, Calif., according to a copy of the commission's report obtained by The Associated Press.

The 16-member panel agreed a new hospital should be opened in Orlando, Fla., but advised against opening a new hospital in Las Vegas. Instead, the commission recommended the VA continue partnering with Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada for care if it can meet veterans' needs that way.

The commission accepted or rejected a number of other proposals affecting dozens of VA facilities across the country as part of a 20-year plan. In some cases, the VA had not provided enough data to support changes in the mission of the facilities, the commission said.

The VA proposed converting some facilities to Critical Access Hospitals, but the commission said the agency did not clearly define what that is and so rejected those proposals.

The panel recommended closing hospitals in Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Gulfport, and transferring large portions of care away from the Waco, Texas, hospital.

The commission found that money the VA was spending to maintain unused or underused buildings and excess land could be used to provide direct medical care to veterans.

*The Sun Herald*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Columbus AFB MS



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

"The commission believes that change is necessary to prepare the system for a new veteran demographic reality and a rapidly evolving approach to health care delivery," the panel members said in their report.

Veterans have shifted from northern cities such as Chicago, Detroit, Boston and New York to Sunbelt state such as Florida, Texas and Arizona.

A VA official told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee this week the agency was already working on 41 "likely" projects in anticipation of the commission's recommendations. But how quickly any changes would begin after Principi makes his decisions was uncertain.

The VA launched the massive restructuring after government auditors in 1999 predicted the VA would spend billions of dollars to operate unneeded buildings and that as much as one in every four VA health care dollars would be devoted to maintenance and operation of facilities.

Some of the most intense protests against closing have been in Waco. Vietnam veteran Roger Sturdevant, 53, goes to the Waco VA hospital several times a week for therapeutic swimming and post-traumatic stress disorder group therapy.

"I think it's terrible for them to make vets go so far from home," he said Friday. "They're slitting our throats. They don't care about us, period."

Senate minority leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said political considerations - the importance of Ohio and Pennsylvania in President Bush's re-election campaign - could outweigh the commission's arguments in favor of closing some hospitals.

Daschle also said he is reluctant to close hospitals, even where the number of veterans has diminished, because there are "older veterans in particular who have no place else to go."



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Columbus AFB MS



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

### **Pentagon offers timeline on base closings**

By TARA COPP

SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

**WASHINGTON** - The Pentagon has created an official timeline and Web site to inform military communities about what lies ahead in the next year leading up to the list of base closings.

The Web site offers descriptions of related legislation, Capitol Hill speeches and testimony, the Pentagon's timeline for the closings and frequently asked questions.

This is a busy month in the Base Realignment and Closure process, commonly called BRAC. Thursday the Pentagon released the eight criteria it will use to judge each base. The criteria focus on a base's role in homeland security and whether a base can house more than one military branch.

Congress must approve the criteria by mid-March.

By May 16, 2005, the Secretary of Defense must make his nominations for base closure.

After review by the General Accounting Office, the commission makes its recommendations for closing on Sept. 8, 2005. The president and Congress must approve or disapprove the recommendations.

If not approved, the commission will revisit the recommendations for a final approval by Nov. 7, 2005.

---

#### **Barbour picks**

*panel to protect*

*Mississippi bases*

*In meetings Friday, Gov. Haley Barbour created the Mississippi Military Communities Council and announced he will ask the Legislature for funds to conduct studies to protect Mississippi installations from base closure.*

*Barbour appointed Michael Olivier, executive director of the Harrison County Development Commission, as vice-chair of the Mississippi Military Communities Council. Lamar McDonald, representing Naval Air Station Meridian, was designated chairman.*

*In Harrison County, Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, the Gulfport Naval Construction Battalion Center, and the Air National Guard and AVCRAD helicopter repair facilities in Gulfport employ a total of 30,000 military and civilian personnel and have a \$2.5 billion economic impact annually.*

***The Sun Herald***

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# HQ AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

### No danger found in Brooks powder

**By Mary Moreno**

San Antonio Express-News

**Web Posted : 02/18/2004 12:00 AM**

A white powder that forced the evacuation Tuesday afternoon of a building at Brooks City-Base did not test positive for anthrax or ricin, according to a San Antonio Fire Department official.

The powder was found on an envelope at the Human Systems Program office about 1 p.m. Tuesday, said District Chief Randy Jenkins, spokesman for the department. The discovery spurred the evacuation of 150 people who work in Building 578 and the quarantine of nine people who worked in the room where the powder was found.

None of the people quarantined complained of feeling sick, Jenkins said. Still, they were kept isolated until five tests conducted by the department's hazardous materials team came back negative. Three other tests were inconclusive. The quarantined employees were sent home with instructions to shower and change clothes, Jenkins said.

The suspected envelope contained paychecks and a flier. It was mailed in-house and was not delivered by the U.S. Postal Service, Jenkins said.

It was the second time in less than two weeks that the Fire Department's hazardous materials team responded to a call about a suspected envelope. On Feb. 4, firefighters went to U.S. Sen. John Cornyn's office to retrieve an envelope with a threatening message.

At a lab, nothing toxic or dangerous was found in the envelope.



(Tom Reel/Express-News)

Firefighters approach a Brooks City-Base building. They were called Tuesday to investigate powder found in an envelope.





# AETC Bases News Clips

## Columbus AFB MS



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

### **Gulfport VA could face closing**

**Commission's report to be released today**

By **SUZANNE GAMBOA**

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**WASHINGTON** - A commission reviewing veterans hospitals throughout the country could recommend today that the Gulfport facility be closed and the Biloxi hospital be expanded. A commission reviewing the Bush administration's proposal to close seven Veterans Affairs hospitals will recommend the government keep open portions of some facilities, The Associated Press learned Thursday.

"They have attempted to build into the report flexibility for me to make decisions over a period of time," Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony Principi said Thursday in an interview with the AP. Principi added that the commission members also "have made some very difficult decisions on closures and consolidations."

He declined to discuss any specific recommendations, which were to be made public today. But one congressional source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the report recommends against closing entirely the VA hospital complex at Canandaigua, N.Y.

The department is seeking to modernize VA health care facilities and shift services to areas where veterans are living.

The recommendations are not final. Principi will decide whether to change some, accept or reject others.

In addition to the Canandaigua facility, the VA also wants to close its Highland Drive hospital in Pittsburgh, its Leestown hospital in Lexington, Ky., and hospitals in Brecksville, Ohio, Gulfport, Livermore, Calif., and Waco, Texas.

But the department also wants to open new hospitals in Las Vegas and in Orlando, Fla.; add centers for the blind in Biloxi and Long Beach, Calif.; and place new spinal cord injury centers in Denver; Minneapolis; Syracuse or Albany, N.Y.; and Little Rock.

The proposals to close some hospitals drew criticism from affected communities and members of Congress from the areas. In some cases, Principi personally visited sites at the request of lawmakers.

"It makes no sense to close VA hospitals in America while we are opening hospitals in Iraq," Rep. Chet Edwards, a Democrat from Waco, said Thursday.

The closures have been an issue in some congressional races. In Lexington, Ky., on Wednesday, Principi said he was "leaning toward" keeping part of a VA hospital outside that city open.

"The oddity of this issue is that it occurs during time of war rather than an election," said Steve Thomas, a spokesman for the American Legion. "Regardless of the election it seems inappropriate to close veterans hospitals in time of war."

Principi has promoted the overhaul plan as an attempt to adjust the VA health care system to better meet the needs of veterans who are older and tend to live in Sunbelt states. The effort also attempts to continue VA's transition, like other health care systems, to treat more patients on an outpatient basis.

"This really is not about saving money," Principi said. "It's about efficiency. It's about effectiveness."

*The Sun Herald*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Columbus AFB MS



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

President Bush requested \$524 million for construction after decisions on the plan are made. Principi said an additional \$400 million carried over from this year's budget will provide nearly \$1 billion for the work.

Congress passed a law last year that allows it to review the final plan after Principi makes his decisions. But blocking any part of it would require both houses passing legislation within 45 congressional working days after Principi makes his final decision.

He has said in the past he intends to do that within 60 days after getting the commission's report.

*The Sun Herald*  
**PAGE: Internet**  
**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply.

**18-Feb-04**

### Rape statistics lower in Wichita Falls

Other similar-sized base cities record more sex crimes

**By Lee B. Weaver**  
**Times Record News**  
**February 18, 2004**

Rapes in Wichita Falls are fewer than in selected cities with military installations, according to a Times Record News survey.

Allegations of widespread sexual assaults involving personnel from Sheppard Air Force Base surfaced in a Denver Post article last week and have drawn national attention to Wichita Falls.

But crime statistics from Abilene and Killeen, Texas and Lawton - communities associated with Dyess Air Force Base, Fort Hood Army Base and Fort Sill Army Base, respectively - show more instances of rape in 2001 and 2002 than in Wichita Falls.

The most direct comparison of rape statistics comes from the FBI's Uniform Crime Records for 2002, which compile crimes per 100,000 inhabitants of each city.

The Wichita Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area, made up of Wichita and Archer counties, registered the lowest rate of the four communities at 27.9. The Killeen-Temple MSA, which includes Bell and Coryell counties, had the second lowest rate - 41.3 per 100,000 people. Abilene's MSA, which consists of Taylor County, was third lowest with a rate of 46.9. And Lawton's MSA, made up of Comanche County, had the highest rate at 52 per 100,000.

At the city level, police officials provided rape statistics for the period from 1998 to 2002. The four cities are comparably sized, with 2002 population estimates by the Census ranging from 91,000 to 115,000.

? Wichita Falls averaged the fewest rapes over the period, at 46 per year.

? Killeen averaged the greatest number of rapes at 57.

? Lawton police reported an average of 52 rapes per year.

? Abilene averaged 51 rapes per year.

Nationwide, the average number of forcible rapes per 100,000 residents from 1998 to 2002 was 33.

Spokespersons with each agency reported a positive working relationship with their neighboring military installations. Likewise, they reported no negative impact of the military's presence in their communities.

"I don't think there's a disproportionate effect," said Carol Smith with the Killen Police Department. "Fort Hood is the largest military base in the free world and it has its problems. There are 41,000 soldiers and dependents who reside here. But I've not seen any disproportionate impact on the (crime in the Killeen) community from the base."

***Times Record News***  
**PAGE: Faxed**  
**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

The Post story, which ran in the Feb. 12 edition, started a firestorm of controversy, as military leaders reacted to accusations of victim intimidation and less-than-vigorous investigations.

Politicians also joined the fray, calling for an inquiry into two dozen alleged sexual assaults of women stationed at Sheppard from June 2001 to June 2002. A detachment is in Wichita Falls this week, under orders from the Department of Defense, to review support systems and investigative processes at the base.

David Smith, public affairs officer with the Air Education Training Command out of San Antonio, said the team would likely be in town through Saturday interviewing students, instructors, officers and other base personnel.

Staff writer Lee B. Weaver can be reached at (940) 763-7548 or with e-mail at [weaverl@TimesRecordNews.com](mailto:weaverl@TimesRecordNews.com).

*Times Record News*  
**PAGE: Faxed**  
**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Columbus AFB MS



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

### **GeoBase program bypasses paper maps**

By **SUSAN GRIGGS**

**KEESLER NEWS STAFF**

**BILOXI** - Paper maps are becoming passé at Keesler, thanks to the GeoBase program.

The Web-based system "is more than just a pretty map - it's a tool to support decision-making for the 81st Training Wing," according to Roger Buenzow, GeoBase manager for the 81st Civil Engineer Squadron. "It's not just a CE or crisis action team tool - it can be used by the base population for day-to-day tasks. It will reach out and touch everyone as it expands."

Buenzow said development of Keesler's GeoBase program, the first to be Web-based in Air Education and Training Command, began shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

"Since that time, homeland security has become a vital nationwide issue, and GeoBase is an integral tool that plays an important part in maintaining that security," he said.

Keesler's common installation picture, made up of 128 layers of data, is available around the clock on the GeoBase Web server. The map covers an area one mile north, east and west of the base and south to the Mississippi Sound.

The CAT fully utilizes the CIP during crisis and routine situations, according to Buenzow.

"Especially critical on the Gulf Coast is the ability to track real-world hurricane threats," he explained.

"Real-time weather data from the National Hurricane Center is superimposed on the CIP to provide instant projections on Keesler's vulnerability during every stage of a hurricane threat, such as what buildings could be affected by storm surge."

GeoBase's cordon tool pinpoints accident or incident locations during bomb threats, crimes or hostage situations. As the situation develops - real world or exercise - the GeoBase CIP and cordon tool provide immediate information to all decision-makers.

"From the CAT, information is posted to the map and broadcast to the unit control centers - everyone involved is seeing the same information," Buenzow pointed out.

Cordons can be set up within a certain number of feet from a particular facility and the CIP shows where intersections must be blocked. Affected buildings show up in red, but change to yellow when they've received an evacuation notice and green when they've been vacated. When blockades are manned, indicators pop up.

An identification button can be used to specify a particular building. A simple click opens up the floor plan with evacuation routes and room breakouts that provide valuable information to emergency response personnel.

Red dots indicate hazardous material storage. Zoom in and the chemical, quantity, location, wind and weather variables are available to project possible contaminant plumes to narrow the hazard cordon area.

Buenzow noted that the CIP provides day-to-day operational information to nearly every unit on base. The program is used by the environmental flight to manage critical environmental programs.

Automated Civil Engineer System real property data is migrated to the CIP and displayed on the Web map.

GeoBase functionality has been extended to facility managers, planners and commanders via the Web, giving them the ability to review current status on work orders for their facility.

*The Sun Herald*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Columbus AFB MS



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

"A digging permit tool, environmental assessment review tool and military construction tracking tool, all Web-based, are in the works," Buenzow commented.

GeoBase maps were developed to analyze utilization of more than 1,800 housing units for the housing privatization program.

The latest technology is used to maintain the GeoBase map. Hand-held computers attached to a global positioning system enable technicians to collect field data and download the information into the GeoBase maps once they return to the office. The GPS system also plays a vital role in locating aircraft parts in the event of an aircraft crash.

"Protecting Keesler's air space is a major concern to us, so we're using GeoBase applications to develop a three-dimensional view of the air space surrounding our flight path," Buenzow said. "This will allow us to do a virtual fly-through to determine what buildings or objects, if any, project into our flight path."

Soon, Keesler plans to add wireless technology to the GeoBase environment to allow firefighters, security forces and medical responders to have laptop computers mounted in their vehicles, allowing them to transmit and receive real-time information about emergency situations with the CAT.

"Another customer service feature we're planning for the future are kiosks at the visitors center and the training support facility in the Triangle to make it easier for folks to find their way around the base," Buenzow mentioned.



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply.

**18-Feb-04**

### First Step rejects claims of base's lack of response

**Jessica Langdon**  
Times Record News

First Step Inc. has re-nounced comments attributed to the organization's former executive director in a *Denver Post* article.

The newspaper quoted Laura Grimsinger in its article that pointed to a wave of sexual assaults involving Sheppard Air Force Base. The story said the incidents went

"largely unnoticed," and quoted Grimsinger as saying Sheppard "wants to minimize sexual assault and not address it."

"The statements made by Laura Grimsinger in no way reflect the opinion of First Step Inc.," a press release issued Thursday said.

"We were concerned,"

Please see  
**GRIMSINGER** on Page 6A

*Times Record News*  
**PAGE: Faxed**  
**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply.

18-Feb-04

### GRIMSINGER continued from Page 1A

First Step Program Director Xochitl Pruitt said Friday. She said that did not mean there were bad feelings between the agency and Grimsinger.

Grimsinger told the *Times Record News* Thursday much of the *Post's* article didn't reflect what she intended, saying the story sounded "a lot more dramatic than I meant it to be."

Grimsinger left First Step in 2002 after 15 years to spend more time with her family, she said at the time.

"She's done a lot for this agency," Pruitt said. She said Grimsinger was part of a movement over many years to help victims of abuse and assault get the help they need.

Pruitt said providing help, privacy and respect for clients is still First Step's goal. Its work — including its relationship with Sheppard — hasn't changed as a result of the article, she said.

Sheppard and First Step signed a memorandum of understanding January 21, each basically agreeing to inform clients of the services the other offers.

Pruitt said she's been with First Step for only three years, and doesn't know why they didn't have a similar agreement before.

She said First Step has many agreements throughout

the community, and this one seemed natural.

"We need one with the military," she said. "You want to have them with every agency or institution that you work with."

Sheppard family advocacy officer Capt. Carolyn Zablonksi said the Air Force "has a directive that each base have an agreement with an advocacy program and Child Protective Services. This directive has been in place for at least two years."

She said this is Sheppard's first agreement with First Step.

A Sheppard staff member — Jeff Pixler — is also a member of First Step's board.

"We're on the same team," he said. "We serve the same clients. It's a real good fit."

Pruitt agreed, and put in writing in the agency's press release — "First Step Inc. and Sheppard Air Force Base have formed a great working relationship and will continue to dedicate their efforts to stop sexual assault."

dedicate their efforts to stop sexual assault."

Crime reporter Jessica Langdon can be reached at (940) 763-7530 or by email at [langdonj\(at\)TimesRecordNews.com](mailto:langdonj(at)TimesRecordNews.com).

*Times Record News*  
PAGE: Faxed  
DATE: 18-Feb-04





# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

## Fighter pilots, state economy share benefit of Goldwater Range

**David Madrid**

The Arizona Republic

Feb. 16, 2004 12:01 AM

The Barry M. Goldwater Range is the linchpin of military air training in Arizona, valued by pilots for its vastness and versatility and by several communities as a key economic asset.

"I call it the 'Jewel of the Nile,' " says Luke Air Force Base's commander, Brig. Gen. Philip Breedlove. "It's the centerpiece for training in this whole state. It's the best training range in the world for young fighter pilots."

The 1.7 million-acre range in southwestern Arizona is used primarily by Luke, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson and Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. But its value extends beyond that. Military entities from all over the state, the country and several other nations train there, as well.

For protectors of the state's military bases, the location and use of the range are enough to give them hope that Arizona will escape a major financial hit when a quarter of the nation's bases get the ax in 2005.

A recent study commissioned by the state estimates that military bases generate \$5.6 billion in economic activity a year.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. R. Thomas Browning, who co-chaired the governor's military facilities task force, says that the location and multiple uses of the range bode well for the Arizona bases that depend on it.

"The Goldwater Range cannot be replicated anyplace else in the United States," he said.

Far from a wasteland of bomb craters, spent munitions and scattered animal carcasses, the bulk of the range is pristine desert, home to 500 species of flora and fauna and eight threatened or endangered species. Only about 6 percent of the range is used for military exercises, the Air Force says.

Goldwater offers 2.7 million acres of airspace for exclusive military use. Of the acreage on the ground, 1.05 million acres in the east are under Air Force control and 650,000 in the west are under the Marine Corps.

Breedlove says the value of the range has been amply demonstrated by the success of the pilots who have trained there.

In the 1991 Persian Gulf War, 50 percent of the F-16 pilots, most F-15 pilots and all of the A-10 pilots who helped defeat Iraq trained on the range as students, the Air Force says. Most of the Navy's and Marine Corps' F/A-18 and AV-8B air crews also trained on the range.

All the F-16 pilots and A-10 pilots involved in the Iraq war trained there.

Luke, one of the major users of the range, trains novice F-16 pilots to prepare them for advanced training. It also trains aviators who have to requalify on the F-16 and those who fly other fighters and want cross-training.

Luke and Davis-Monthan use four "manned ranges" for air-to-ground training, in which non-exploding practice bombs are dropped and targets are strafed. Goldwater also has three tactical ranges for advanced air-to-ground training,

*The Arizona Republic*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

with such simulated targets as airfields, vehicle convoys, tanks, rail yards and simulated air defenses. There are three hills and two targets where live munitions are used.

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma trains 80 percent of that service's pilots at the range and at the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range in California.

Marine pilots out of Yuma fly the AV-8 Harrier, which can take off and land vertically. Yuma is the only Marine Corps base that has an aggressor squadron, which flies F-5s designed to give pilots practice against aircraft different than their own.

Most of the Marine training on the Goldwater Range is done electronically, so no bombs are dropped. Instead, pilots home in on electronic targets. There are two target areas where practice bombs can be used.

The Marines also use part of the range for rifle and pistol practice and for urban warfare training.

Because of the range's vastness, Luke commander Breedlove says several exercises can be conducted simultaneously, one of Goldwater's prime assets.

Echoing that sentiment, the task force's Browning says it would make no sense to shut down any of the Arizona bases that utilize Goldwater and ship its mission elsewhere.

That would only increase fuel consumption used in transit, he said, while the short flights from Arizona bases leave more fuel for training.

In fact, protecting Luke's southern departure corridor, the only route it has left to Goldwater for live arms training, is a priority of West Valley cities, the state's congressional delegation and the task force.

Arizona's congressional delegation has landed roughly \$27.3 million to buy land and protect the southern corridor.

As stewards of the range, the Air Force and the Marine Corps say they have devoted considerable money and staffing to protecting its environment.

Noah Matson, director of public lands for Defenders of Wildlife, says his organization has seen a lot of improvement on the military's part, though he says there is still much it could do.

"Overall, it's one of the last intact swaths of the Sonoran Desert left," he said. "They should be commended for that. They do some things that are destructive to the environment, but they are the military."

Matson said his wildlife conservation group would like to see the military do more to protect the endangered Sonoran pronghorn antelope, of which there are only about 20 left in the United States.

Col. Jim Uken, director of the 56th Fighting Wing Range Management Office, said the military uses spotters to make sure neither pronghorns nor stray humans are present where pilots train.

The military has spent more than \$2 million since 1995 on the Sonoran pronghorn alone, Uken said.

Tom Manfredi, community planner for the Yuma Air Station, says the importance of the range can't be stressed enough.

"The range is an extremely important national defense training asset," he said. "It really is critical, especially to the state of Arizona, (the Marine Corps), Davis-Monthan and Luke."

*The Arizona Republic*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

### **A matter of security**

*Proposed development threatens bases, economy*

**Feb. 17, 2004 12:00 AM**

Just as Arizona is mobilizing to protect its military bases, a massive development in Pinal County threatens key jet fighter routes and a national center for helicopter training.

If Pinal County approves La Osa Ranch, putting 50,000 homes in the desert near Eloy, it will blow a huge hole in the military's ability to operate in Arizona.

The helicopter facility will certainly shut down, and it will be far more likely that a major facility like Luke Air Force Base in Glendale also will end up on the base closure list.

This is an issue that affects us all: The bases are not only economic engines for the state but a vital part of national security.

The Silver Bell Army Heliport, in southern Pinal County, is one of Arizona's little-known assets.

It's home to the training center for pilots of the Apache helicopter for all of the National Guard units in the country and some active-duty Army personnel. It has about 500 full-time employees, and the Army is considering an expansion in the attack-helicopter training.

The pilots' training area is a corridor that leads into the Barry M. Goldwater Range. The military did a four-year, \$4 million environmental impact study to make certain that the operations are compatible with the surroundings.

No one had any idea that a giant residential development would be proposed for this out-of-the-way grazing land.

Indeed, military officials didn't learn of the La Osa Ranch proposal until December, when the rezoning request was about to go to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The property lies smack in the center of the training area. Residential development there would throw a monkey wrench into the rotors of the whole program.

Noise and other issues aside, pilots just can't practice over houses. "Apaches fly at cactus-top level," explains Michael Virgin, director of joint programs for the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs. "They follow the terrain."

Night training would be crippled, too. "If you had night vision goggles on and you suddenly went into city lights, you'd be blinded," Virgin says.

There's not much doubt: If the houses go in, the helicopters go out.

And prospects are dim for finding any other place for the training center in Arizona. The state is just getting too built up.

La Osa Ranch also would threaten three vital flight paths into the Goldwater Range, the sole access from the east.

The routes, used extensively by Luke Air Force Base, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson and the National Guard out of Tucson, converge close to the proposed development. This is where F-16s are skimming the Earth as close as 300 feet, at 500 mph.

***The Arizona Republic***

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**



# AETC Bases News Clips

## LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **18-Feb-04**

---

Last year, 1,540 flights crossed over the La Osa Ranch area. The problem is not only noise but the risk of an accident over a densely populated area.

These three flight paths account for nearly half of eight routes that the governor's military task force identified as crucial to maintaining Arizona's military training capability. If we lose them, there's nowhere to send the jets.

"The population of Arizona now is such that to establish new low-level routes would be next to impossible," says Rusty Mitchell, Luke's director of community initiatives.

Losing one or more bases would be a nasty blow to the Arizona economy. The overall impact of the military is \$6 billion a year, supporting 83,000 jobs.

Some projects are compatible with military operations. A city-size residential development is not.

The Pinal County Planning and Zoning Commission should say no to this project. The Pinal County Board of Supervisors should say no.

We're counting on them to take the long-range view, for our economy and our national security.

*The Arizona Republic*

**PAGE: Internet**

**DATE: 18-Feb-04**